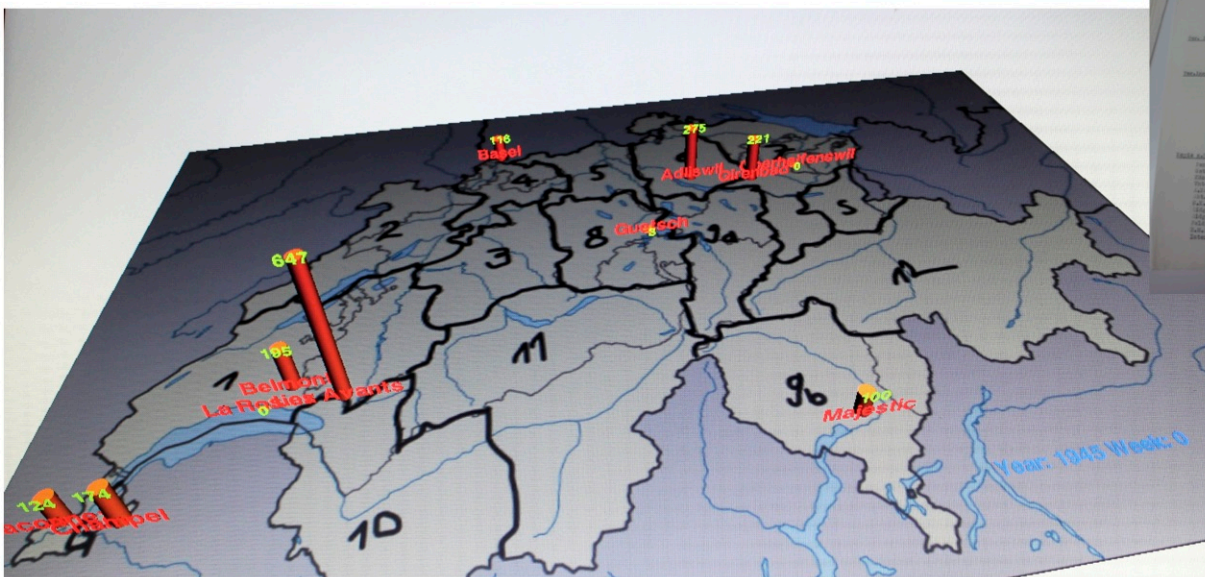
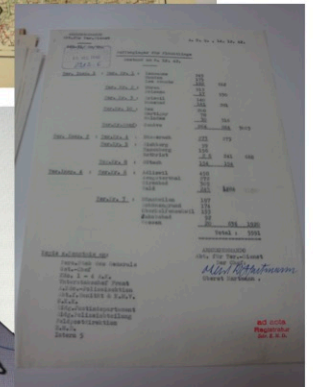




The increasing number of refugees in 1942 strained the civil resources and the military was asked to stand in. Due to security policy, hygienic aspects and the small number of camps lead by a civil administration, the military administration established a complex system of camps to provide the refugees with housing, food and clothing.

My research focuses on these military controlled refugee camps with a main aspect on the administrative point of view. The search for sources in the Swiss Federal Archives showed that not much material about the camps is preserved. Most of it is static material such as weekly reports of the number and names of camps, the number of re-

fugees in these camps, and the military personnel doing service in the camps. But there are also historical maps showing the distribution of the camps over the territorial districts of Switzerland.



As a part of my larger project and in cooperation with the Digital Humanities Lab of the University of Basel, a digital map will be created using the mentioned static material. With this digital map, the places of the refugee camps as well as their size can be visualised not only in a geographical

distribution but also in their development in its diachronic and synchronic dimensions - all in a single map. This allows a visualisation of the inflow of refugees and the military decisions of where to detain them geographically in a small country like Switzerland surrounded by warring countries.

With this digital map it will be possible to include other kinds of data and information. For example to show a refugee's way through several camps in Switzerland or to insert other kinds of camps such as the working camps under civil administration. The prototype shows only eleven of the

more than 200 different sites used as reception camps by the Swiss Army. The visualisation is based on WebGL-technology using the three.js framework. Therefore it can be displayed using any modern web-browser with no need for additional software. The raw data has been converted

from Excel-CSV to JSON using a small PHP script and is loaded directly by the JavaScript program which controls the visualisation.

